

PRODUCTION OF INFECTIOUS HEPADNAVIRUS
PARTICLES CONTAINING FOAMY RETROVIRUS
ENVELOPE PROTEINS AND METHODS OF USING THE SAME

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention provides a method for producing a hepadnavirus virion that is infectious in vitro which comprises: (a) introducing into a cell (i) a hepadnavirus genome expression vector and (ii) a foamy retrovirus envelope expression vector which comprises a nucleic acid encoding at least a fragment of a foamy virus envelope protein, and (b) culturing the cell thereby producing hepadnavirus virions comprising at least a fragment of a foamy virus envelope protein, wherein the hepadnavirus virions are infectious in vitro. A method for determining susceptibility for an anti-hepadnavirus drug, a method for determining replication capacity of a hepadnavirus from an infected patient, and method for identifying a mutation in a hepadnavirus nucleic acid that confers resistance to an anti-hepadnavirus drug are also provided.